of single stranded fragments comprising fragments generated from the plus strands and a second population of single stranded fragments comprising fragments generated from the minus strands, said second population being separate from said first population;

c) contacting said first population of single stranded fragments with said second population of single stranded fragments, whereby annealing occurs between said first population of single stranded fragments and said second population of single stranded fragments;

d) amplifying the fragments that anneal to each other to generate at least one polynucleotide sequence encoding one or more protein motifs having altered characteristics as compared to the one or more protein motifs encoded by said parent polynucleotides.

3. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the exonuclease is BAL31.

REMARKS

The April 16, 2002 Official Action and the references cited therein have been carefully reviewed. In view of the amendments presented herewith and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Official Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting for allegedly failing to be patentably distinct from claims 1-7 of US Patent No. 6,159,690.

At page 4 of the Official Action, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by US Patent 6,159,690 to Borrebaeck et al.